

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 OMB-01 /103 W

----- 076324

R 160934 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8583

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2839

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: TW, CH, UR, PFOR

SUBJECT: ROC LEAKS INFORMATION ON

SOVIET WARSHIP TRANSIT OF TAIWAN STRAITS

1. TAIWAN PRESS MAY 15 CARRIED STORY BY LOCAL UPI
CORRESPONDENT SHULLEN SHAW REPORTING THAT FROM THREE
TO FIVE SOVIET WARSHIPS, INCLUDING DESTROYERS AND SUBMARINE,
TRANSITED TAIWAN STRAIT DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS MAY 12 AT
DISTANCES RANGING FROM 20 TO 40 MILES FROM MAINLAND
COAST. REPORT WAS SOURCED TO " AUTHORITY INDIVIDUAL"
AND SPECULATED THAT SOVIET PURPOSE WAS TO TEST PRC DEFENSES. NEXT
DAY

ALL PAPERS

CARRIED CONFIRMATORY STATEMENT BY
MILITARY SPOKESMAN WHICH ALSO STRESSED THAT
PASSAGE HAD TAKEN PLACE ON HIGH SEAS AND HAD BEEN
CLOSELY WATCHED BY APPROPRIATE ROC UNITS. HE REFRAINED
FROM SPECULATING ON SOVIET MOTIVES.

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT SHAW
WAS CALLED IN AND PROVIDED STORY BY
OFFICIAL SOURCES. ROC'S
MOTIVES IN LEAKING NEWS PROBABLY INCLUDE DESIRE STRENGTHEN
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ARGUMENT FOR CONTINUED STRONG US PRESENCE IN AREA IN ORDER
TO COUNTER GROWING SOVIET PRESENCE AND THE STANDARD ONE
OF HIGHLIGHTING INCREASING SOVIET- PRC TENSIONS AS MEANS TO
BOLSTER MORALE ON TAIWAN.

MCCONAUGHY

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: boyleja
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Disposition Reason:
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